

# 2002 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



## Program Focus —

Statewide priorities were developed to emphasize areas where warm season grasses could be planted or wetlands restored or created. The program also targets those areas in close proximity to water and protected conservation areas. Wildlife Habitat Development Plans that include an early successional habitat component are given bonus points. Bonus points are also awarded to plans that have a direct positive effect on a threatened or endangered species.

## Indiana Summary

### Overview

NRCS provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices. The goal of the WHIP program in Indiana is to protect and enhance the wildlife and fisheries habitats of National and State significance. Fish and wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations, including rare, threatened, and endangered species are to be benefited by program activities. Our goal is to install practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that may not otherwise be funded.

### Accomplishments

Over 170 applications were received in 2002. One hundred and fifty applications were approved for funding in the amount of \$262,000. Over 1,400 acres of upland wildlife habitat management, field borders, and wetland restoration/enhancement are to be installed under these contracts. Upland wildlife habitat management consists of planting warm season grasses, trees, and shrubs.

### Program Benefits

The installation of upland wildlife habitat management practices provides habitat to many species of wildlife. In some areas, this includes threatened and endangered species. There is also the benefit to water quality and quantity, as soil is held in place by the conservation cover and water infiltrates better. Field borders also provide wildlife habitat, as well as filtering sediment before it can get into water bodies. This type of activity also provides outdoor enthusiasts with areas to observe wildlife.

### State Contact

John Poenisch, Program Analyst, 317-290-3200, Ext. 357,  
[john.poenisch@in.usda.gov](mailto:john.poenisch@in.usda.gov)

## Indiana WHIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (98-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$8,311	2	\$42,600	4
District 2	36,744	16	61,275	21
District 3	27,237	9	47,573	17
District 4	10,767	12	51,376	25
District 5	35,286	14	53,269	25
District 6	16,527	14	38,038	23
District 7	-	-	270	1
District 8	65,074	29	158,003	66
District 9	62,054	54	152,680	91
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$262,000</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>\$605,129</b>	<b>273</b>

## Indiana WHIP Request Backlog-Dollars and Number of Applications

Congressional Districts	As of February 20, 2003	
	Requested Dollars	Number of Applications
District 1	-	-
District 2	21,592	6
District 3	7,734	4
District 4	-	-
District 5	18,394	8
District 6	4,546	4
District 7	-	-
District 8	6,202	2
District 9	20,977	18
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>79,445</b>	<b>42</b>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.